

**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #38
January 8, 2007**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE

The World Health Organization reported three new human cases of H5N1 influenza, bringing the total case count to 261, including 157 deaths (60.1%). All three cases were fatal and were within one extended family in Egypt. The ages ranged from 15-30 years. The persons who contracted the illness were reported to have had contact with sick ducks. Other members of their family remain under observation and healthy.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- The Weekly Report will transition to a monthly report subsequent to this edition. The next report will be published February 5, 2007.
- The Commonwealth Preparedness Working Group (CPWG) has initiated PanFlu Plan development. The scope of this plan extends beyond the health issues and impacts attendant to Pandemic Flu. The Governor's Cabinet will establish an Oversight / Advisory Group to review plan development.
- The Department of Human Resources has completed an initial draft of a Public Health Emergency Leave Policy.
- The next meeting of the Virginia Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2007, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.
- Office of Drinking Water (ODW) will host a Drinking Water PanFlu Summit on Jan. 31-Feb. 1 in Winchester. Audience will include Region III (VA, PA, MD, DE, WV) state ODW representatives. Desired outcome is to create ODW PanFlu template for Continuity of Operations issues.
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Reports

- **Eastern Region**

- Regional Medical Consultant gave a PanFlu update at the Hampton Roads Utilities Committee Meeting.
- Regional PIO and Medical Consultant met with the Virginian Pilot Distribution Leadership Team to discuss PanFlu planning.
- Regional Medical Consultant attended the Antiviral Distribution Plan Advisory Group meeting.
- Regional Epidemiologist, PIO and Trainer met with a Virginian Pilot health reporter to discuss business and community preparations for PanFlu.
- Regional Medical Consultant gave a PanFlu update to the Virginia Beach Medical Reserve Corps and the Virginia Beach Citizen Emergency Response Team.
- Regional Trainer is working with the Virginia Beach Health Department on their Pandemic Influenza Summit for Local Businesses scheduled for 2/21/07.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Reports

- **Alexandria**

- Received and inventoried additional supplies for response to a pandemic.
- Communications with the Public subject matter group met to plan Town Meeting concerning PanFlu.
- Isolation and Quarantine subject matter group met to work on legal recommendations to be submitted to Attorney General's office.
- In cooperation with City GIS department, created comprehensive map of population distribution in City.
- Began interviewing candidates for a part-time position that will help with pandemic planning, especially use of Medical Reserve Corps

- **Arlington**

- PanFlu brochure: Developed a PanFlu reference brochure (see attached reviewer copy and template for possible brochure). This involved reviewing 21 brochures from across the nation and Canada/UN, deciding and writing the PanFlu and seasonal flu content. Sent for review to the following groups: health educators in the Division, the Bureau Chiefs, the Medical Advisory Group, the executive board of the Arlington County Medical Society, the Office of Emergency Management, Fire/EMS, the regional team, COG staff, the County PIOs office, the Arlington Civic Federation Public Safety committee as well as the members of the MMRS Steering Committee here in Arlington. We are still receiving comments from these groups strictly about maximum content and attempting to collate, before determining which formats to consider and how and/or when to distribute. The goal is to finalize the content in January, so brochure design may begin in February.
- PanFlu Grant Phase II local adoption of funds and sole source contracting: County Board approved use of PanFlu Phase II funds to allow for hire of up to two contract positions (coordinator and/or health educator) as well as to fund further summits and creation, design, and publication of a brochure. Met with former MRC coordinator to explore sole source contract to act as PanFlu Phase II coordinator to organize community summits and shepherd a completed PanFlu reference brochure through design and publication phases; has agreed to work in this capacity as well as health educator. In the process of writing the scope of work and justification for a sole

source contract to begin the approval process with our Department of Management and Finance.

- PanFlu Summit for Physicians/Healthcare Worker Planning: Worked with the medical society and Virginia Hospital Center to get agreement to do a CME program at the hospital for January to engage physicians on the subject of PanFlu planning in the office. Secured OEM participation as well as hospital ER staff participation. 58 health care providers (mostly physicians) have RSVP'd. Hospital and Medical Society members anticipate that many others will show without RSVP.
- Medical Society Meetings: Have provided updates to the executive board as well as to the general membership about PanFlu as well as planning for the pandemic flu summit; getting suggestions for gaining local physician buy-in.
- Medical Advisory Group meeting: At quarterly meeting with MAG discussed pandemic flu summit for physicians/health care workers tentatively scheduled for January 11 and the program. Also discussed what they were looking for in a PanFlu brochure, and distributed it for their comment. Pediatricians had several recommendations immediately which are presently being considered for incorporation (see above comment).
- NOVA MMRS expansion effort -- pharmaceutical cache working group: Co-led this regional activity with Loudon HD to come to regional consensus on what each jurisdiction should have in its pharmaceutical cache. This process culminated with a meeting of OMDs, Health Directors, EMS, Fire, and NVHA staff agreeing to common jurisdictional and regional pharmaceutical cache purchases. This included getting consensus about purchasing Tamiflu for the region as well as supportive care items (i.e., IV fluids) for pandemic and non-pandemic support. Finalized the quantities, cost, and working out the purchasing agreements with the state and the SAA office as consultant to NVRC staff. The regional and jurisdictional caches were ordered with the Arlington Health Director as physician of record, until each jurisdiction has its own plans in place. (RE: Tamiflu for the region -- purchasing 50,000 doses. Arrived at as follows: 2 doses/day x 2 days [using the MMRS 48 hour standard for antibiotics] x 10,000 people, for 5 jurisdictions; the pharmaceutical cache working group and steering committee agreed that the public health directors would jointly be in charge of the Tamiflu cache use and that it would be held regionally and that it would be dispensed using public health guidelines, which the 5 health directors have agreed to already).
- Arlington Mass Fatality Management Group: This group has met monthly in the non-summer months and continues to work on SOGs/SOPs regarding management of mass fatalities in Arlington, using pandemic influenza as the initial disaster to focus on (initial charge to group from health director: to manage an estimated 500 deaths over an 8 week period in a pandemic, arrived at as worst case scenario that 1/2 the expected deaths over a year to year and a half would occur in the first pandemic wave).
- Alternative Care Facility working group: Following the October FLUEX exercise which included a discussion at the hospital about alternative care facility needs in Arlington during a pandemic, a group has been meeting monthly to work on a scalable ACF (scalable to available resources and/or personnel) that can be used in conjunction with ESF 6 mass care plans. The general principles are that we will not attempt to create additional hospitals, since we need to support the existing hospital systems which already are short staffed as we know. Rather, the principles of this group are to create the SOPs to provide care up to but not including hospital care and

- identify the resources needed for each scale of operation. A smaller group is meeting outside of these meetings to move the process forward. The plan is to produce a document that addresses issues related to pandemic influenza first and then a mass casualty event. The target for a draft document is June 2007.
- Risk Communication Exercise at COG: 8 hour exercise with Vincent Covello with work on PanFlu message maps for the Council of Governments as health director participant for the NCR.
 - Capital Area Health Care Executives Presentation preparation: Will present to the Capital Area Health Care Executives monthly meeting in Arlington on January 9th, on pandemic influenza. Specifically the message is about their "shared responsibility" of Health Care Executives within the local, state, and national public health system to manage a complex problem as pandemic influenza.
 - PanFlu Vaccine Prioritization DHHS request for comment: Provided a summary and link to the HHS request for comment re: PanFlu vaccine prioritization to the Sheriff, Police, Fire, and School Department heads, as well as OEM, Civic Federation Public Safety committee members, Medical Society members and all MRC volunteers requesting that these groups provide commentary and/or send this information to the appropriate local, state, and national organizations that represent them to make sure that public comment on this topic could be accomplished before the January 18th deadline. With respect to schools, the school system was asked to forward this information to the PTAs in Arlington to make sure parents could comment as well if interested.
 - CDC Preventive Medicine Resident Job Description Proposal: At the request of CDC, completed job description for potential EIS officers to complete their CDC practicum year in Arlington starting July 2007. As part of proposed activities or projects, PHD included working on PanFlu related community activities including ongoing CME program activities for physicians.
 - Arlington RHIO project: As part of a NOVA RHIO submission earlier in the fall (with former Secretary Jane Woods) have proposed converting our paper version of a Senior Navigator type program (called a "File of Life") to an electronic, web-based consumer driven database with emergency medical information (e.g., medical conditions, allergies, medications, emergency contact information). Met with hospital, medical society, free clinic representatives as well as with Secretary Woods and PHD and DHS staff to gauge interest and level of support should funding become available through the state RHIO grant process. The primary interest for PHD in this project is to make this program available to more than the elderly and disabled population of Arlington presently targeted by the program, especially at a time of crisis such as pandemic flu. Given our unusual demographics -- 52% of the Arlington population falling between 18 and 44 years of age, Arlington could be disproportionately affected by a 1918 type pandemic, and this group in Arlington may not have established relationships with health care providers, especially if this group is single (which represents a large percent of this group). The medical providers have expressed interest in supporting this endeavor. The next phase is to garner support from OEM and Fire/EMS. This meeting has not been scheduled yet. By having a web-based consumer driven database, potentially critical information could be available for those who cannot speak for themselves during a large scale crisis.
- **Central Virginia**

- Planner and Director held a lessons learned discussion regarding the vaccine dispensing drill with district staff during the district's quarterly staff development day.
- Director presented a PanFlu/H5N1 update for all staff at the same meeting
- Director reviewed volunteer medical staff emergency credentialing policy for local hospital.
- **Central Shenandoah**
 - Planner attended meeting with Augusta Medical Center administration to discuss model of how to address community surge issues in advance of a PanFlu event in Augusta County and surrounding localities.
 - CSHD conducted a bomb threat exercise in all seven of our districts offices to test our new Emergency Action Plans.
 - Planner had Push Method MOU approved by the States Attorney Generals Office. The first one has been sent to a Nursing Home to be executed.
- **Chesapeake**
 - Developing "business packet" that will include business-specific material that will later be mailed to our local businesses for encouragement in developing their own PanFlu plans and COOPs.
 - Developing a brochure with information pertaining to caring for loved ones at home and preventing the spread of germs during a flu pandemic. This brochure is intended for and will be distributed to the general public upon its completion.
- **Chesterfield**
 - EP&R staff, including the Planner, Volunteer Coordinator and Educator, met to discuss plans and goals for the upcoming year.
 - Educator scheduled upcoming presentations on pandemic influenza to the Health Department School Team (1/16/2007), a local senior group (1/17/2007), and a local Chamber of Commerce (2/20/2007).
- **Chickahominy**
 - PanFlu Coordinator distributed TV's with PanFlu DVDs to three locations in District.
 - PanFlu Coordinator met with Director and Director of Facilities at Covenant Woods Assisted Living to discuss PanFlu planning and personal preparedness.
 - Hand washing posters and brochures were distributed to all schools in Goochland, Hanover, Charles City, and New Kent counties.
 - PanFlu/ Infection Control literature developed for distribution to all counties in the District.
 - PanFlu Personal Preparedness article planned for the local Charles City/New Kent newspaper.
 - PanFlu PowerPoint presentation developed for future presentations.
- **Crater**
 - Director gave a presentation to the medical staff at SRMC. Approximately 30 physicians were present, as was the CEO. The presentation included information regarding the epidemiology of H5N1, clinical presentation of infected people, and planning issues for the healthcare community. Handouts were provided and a request was made for representatives of the physician community to be included in the Crater PanFlu Planning Committee.
 - Educator and Planner gave a presentation to approximately 150 staff members of District 19. The presentation included information on pandemic influenza and disaster preparedness.
- **Cumberland Plateau**

- Planner facilitated efforts for local county pandemic influenza meeting with contractor and initiated involvement with the County's Emergency Management.
- **Hampton**
 - Attended Hampton School Pandemic Flu Working Group and Hampton Schools Safety All Hazards Working Group.
- **Henrico**
 - PanFlu/Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Program Coordinator hired and initial orientation training started.
 - Epidemiologist sent weekly avian influenza updates via email to community partners.
 - Planner and PanFlu/MRC Coordinator participated in Central Region Planner meeting, in which special needs and Medical Reserve Corps planning were discussed.
 - Monthly "Public Health Bytes" Newsletter was sent to healthcare providers and other partners in Henrico County via "Blastfax" and email. The newsletter provides updates on avian and pandemic flu, and also validates the fax numbers in our "Blastfax" system.
 - Planner participated in the VDH Antiviral Distribution Plan Advisory Group meeting.
 - Healthcare and emergency response partners were invited to attend the Henrico Health and Medical Advisory Group Meeting that will take place on Jan 25.
 - Planner was appointed to the Henrico County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).
 - A letter was mailed to all Henrico MRC Volunteers introducing the new MRC Coordinator. The 2007 MRC training schedule was also included in the letter.
 - Epidemiologist and Planner developed an Infection Control and "All Hazards" Emergency Planning guide for Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities. Epidemiologist and Planner are currently developing a plan to visit all 33 Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities in Henrico County over the course of 2007.
- **Lenowisco**
 - PanFlu Coordinator was hired in the District.
 - Epidemiologist attended the Scott County Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting.
- **Lord Fairfax**
 - Planner assisted in review of current draft of Frederick County's PanFlu plan
 - District Direct reviewed and suggested edits to current draft of the City of Winchester PanFlu Plan
 - Planner reviewed the General Electric (Winchester Lamp Plant) Avian Flu Plan
 - Planner assisted in review of VDH PanFlu Vaccine Distribution Plan
 - Frederick County Public Schools created a PanFlu brochure, which is posted on their web sites:
Parents Link at the top -
<http://www.frederick.k12.va.us/education/components/scrapbook/default.php?sectiondetailid=510>
Community link at the bottom under Health -
http://www.frederick.k12.va.us/education/components/scrapbook/default.php?sectiondetailid=586&sc_id=1165979510#pitem191
- **Loudoun**
 - Provided a PanFlu presentation and MRC information for 35 members of the VA Defense Force and several visiting members of the District of Columbia Defense Force in Leesburg, VA. Several members of the general public also attended this presentation.

- Continued to receive and respond to general public PanFlu inquiries addressed to flu@loudoun.gov.
- Scheduled a PanFlu presentation for Loudoun NAACP organization in Leesburg for March 19, 2007.
- Scheduled a PanFlu presentation for Purcellville Lions Club for January 10.
- Distributed the final CodeFlu '06 After Action Report (AAR) to pertinent persons.
- Scheduled a PanFlu presentation for AOL's Crisis Management Group in Ashburn on January 18.
- Continued outreach to Loudoun County critical infrastructure businesses and civic and faith-based organizations to offer PanFlu presentations in early 2007.
- Scheduled a PanFlu presentation for Arcola Fire and Rescue station members in Arcola, VA, for January 11.
- Provided a PanFlu presentation for 17 members of the Leesburg Lions Club in Leesburg.
- Completed the review process by all partners for the county PanFlu plan and scheduled for presentation to the elected officials in January 2007.
- **Mount Rogers**
 - Planner met with Smyth County School Nurses to review PanFlu information and discuss school plans and preparedness efforts.
- **New River**
 - Planner and Epidemiologist scheduled to meet with Regional Jail medical staff for January 9.
 - Planner resuming schedule of PanFlu presentations to civic organizations, businesses/industry, and faith based organizations.
 - Planner coordinating meetings with DSS and Red Cross for special needs population preparedness planning.
 - Planner coordinating with area LEPCs and planning district commission for pandemic flu informational workshop which is tentative for late spring 2007.
 - Director, Administrator, Nurse Manager, Planner, and Regional Trainer finalizing plans for presenting TASO, NIMS/ICS, and review emergency action plan to all staff on January 26.
- **Norfolk**
 - District has created educational DVDs for faith-based/community audiences and local businesses. They review the CDC checklist as well as personalize PanFlu preparedness guidelines for each audience.
 - District's Health Promotions office has also completed a PSA on what the general public can do to prepare for PanFlu, which includes a brief message from the city's Mayor and directs the audience to where they may find further information. The PSA will be run on the local cable television station.
- **Piedmont**
 - Planner finalized MOU with Dillwyn Correctional Center and Central Virginia Health Services.
 - Nurse Manager gave PanFlu presentation to Blackstone Women's Club
 - District currently advertising for a Health Educator to assist with PanFlu educational activities.
 - A meeting is scheduled with the Regional Volunteer Coordinator for Jan 10th
 - Director attending a meeting of the Anti-Viral Distribution Plan committee
 - Director will be attending the CDC site visit in Henrico HD January 9.
 - Director attended Farmville LEPC meeting and led discussion on PanFlu planning.

- Epidemiologist hired and will start January 10.
- **Pittsylvania Danville**
 - Educator prepared PanFlu educational posters and had them printed to be placed on all City of Danville public transportation buses starting on January 16, 2007.
 - Educator scheduled six PanFlu presentations to area organizations for the month of January.
- **Portsmouth**
 - Planner met with the Portsmouth Community Health Center and Oasis Social Ministry to discuss pandemic planning efforts for the homeless and underserved populations of Portsmouth. Groundwork was laid for ongoing dialogue and support in planning for that population.
 - District's EP&R exercise utilized the free influenza vaccine provided by EP&R to vaccinate over 220 individuals. PanFlu information and planning incentives were distributed to the participating public.
 - Planner met with Health Services Division of the Portsmouth Public Schools to review current pandemic plans and discuss activities to encourage hand washing among students and teachers.
 - Commissioner visited District and was introduced to some of the health department's planning partners. Our partners provided the Commissioner with some examples of our joint planning efforts specific to PanFlu.
- **Prince William**
 - Met with City of Manassas Manager and the Prince William County Executive to discuss holding a community leadership forum to address the alternative care sites. Also met with hospitals, emergency management and fire and rescue planners regarding alternative care sites.
 - Planner spoke at the LEPC meeting on Flu Clinic and PanFlu planning.
 - Special needs population emergency preparedness plan to improve response and recovery is being addressed.
 - UASI shipping and warehousing issues are currently being addressed to house incoming shipments.
- **Rappahannock**
 - Director, Educator, Planner and Epidemiologist met for the second time with School Superintendents within the District to discuss Pandemic Influenza planning and preparedness for schools.
 - Educator, Planner and Epidemiologist held the second meeting of the PanFlu Public Information Subcommittee.
 - Director provided PPE training, including protection of healthcare workers during PanFlu event, to the Chickahominy Regional Medical Reserve Corps
 - Educator continues to research PanFlu information and is developing PanFlu educational brochures, cards and booklets for both the public and responders.
 - Disaster Committee organized a Table Top PanFlu Exercise for upcoming year.
 - Public Information Pandemic Flu Subcommittee met to discuss the PIO component in the PanFlu regional plan. Focus for upcoming year will be on families, school children and senior citizens.
 - Director and PanFlu Committee met for future PanFlu needs, funding and breakdown.
 - Educator and MediCorps Education Coordinator met for PanFlu education implementation in current health system orientation and established employee training.
- **Roanoke / Alleghany County**

- Educator was interviewed by WDBJ Channel 7 for a story on PanFlu planning. It ran on Sunday, December 17 at 6:00 and 11:00 PM.
- Educator was interviewed by WFIR radio in Roanoke about seasonal flu and leftover vaccine.
- Educator facilitated a partnership with Hacienda, the Roanoke Latino community center, to hold a flu vaccine clinic targeting the underserved Latino population in the Roanoke area.
- **Southside**
 - Educator presented VDH video and flu discussion to Chase City Ruritan group.
 - Educator continues to work with school PTAs to give presentation and solicit volunteers for mass clinics.
 - Planner and an Educator are planning presentations in Day Care, schools, hospitals, nursing schools, private doctors' offices and more on Cough/Sneeze transmissions.
 - Educator continues to contact local civic and faith-based groups to schedule PanFlu presentations.
 - Planner and Educator continue solicitation for funds from NACCHO and local hospitals.
- **Thomas Jefferson**
 - PanFlu Public Ed work group met and developed plans for next half-year
 - Director and Epidemiologist provided PanFlu overviews and respiratory PPE information to 20 city police officers (each). Part of a department mandatory staff training day.
 - Special needs population emergency preparedness planning group is being identified and convened.
 - District quarterly PanFlu coordinating council to meet January 17 with main agenda topic being after action reporting/lessons learned from table top exercises held with city, county and UVA, and state FLUEX exercise this fall.
 - Small business PanFlu preparedness seminar planned for February 5
- **Three Rivers**
 - Planner met with Bay Aging to discuss Pandemic Flu and other public health related issues regarding the elderly population in the district.
- **Virginia Beach**
 - Posters from the Hand-Washing Campaign Poster Contest are being displayed thru the month of January at the Virginia Beach School Administration building.
 - Remaining Hygiene Stations were distributed to City Departments.
 - Planner presented at Virginia Beach Community Development Corporation, which is a group of homeless shelter providers, meeting on pandemic influenza planning.
 - Planner presented at the Virginia Beach Resort Advisory Commission meeting on PanFlu planning.
 - PanFlu Bulletin Board has been displayed at Central Library. The display provides general information about pandemic influenza and the proper infection control measures.
- **Western Tidewater**
 - Planner met with Director of Heartland Home Health Care & Hospice to assist in PanFlu planning, who agreed to attend other PanFlu committee meetings in W. Tidewater to add her expertise in identifying special needs populations.
 - Planner, Epidemiologist and MRC Coordinator attended the 2nd Suffolk Schools PanFlu Planning Committee Meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2007.